

- ☑ Army National Guard comes onboard to help Westover with security
- ☑ Second activation of Westover reservists (back page)
- ☑ A half century of Westover highlights (back page)

## Briefs

### Midnight chow

The dining facility will be open from 11 p.m. to 1 a.m. for midnight meals. Box lunches will be provided upon request 24/7 the cost of a box lunch is \$3.25 each. The cost of meals is \$3.25 if members are on per diem.

- from TSgt. David Beauregard,  
 439th SVS

### Medical facility hours

Hours of operation for 24-hour non-emergency medical support 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Normal operations:

--Sick call 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Dental support will only be available this week on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

--4:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. nurse/technician on duty Ext. 3565 or 2661.

--9:00 p.m. to 7:30 a.m. on call Medical Coverage Call beeper 730-0488

The medical squadron is working with specific squadrons to have Tricare representatives available from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. If units have needs please contact CMSgt. George Kudla or Lt. Col. Lenore Boris at Ext. 3565.

**Note: for all medical emergencies call 911.**

The staff at the medical facility are awaiting news on possible activations. If it does happen, a permanent schedule for hours of operation will be set up.

- from Lt. Col. Lenore Boris,  
 439th AMDS

### Club serves Texas barbecued buffet

The Westover Consolidated Club is serving a Texas barbecued buffet at 5 p.m. on Friday. Cost for members is \$12.95 per person and \$13.95 for non-members.



SSgt. Joseph Geyster, Massachusetts Army National Guard, checks the ID card of a motorist entering Westover at the Industrial Gate on Feb. 25.

(photo by SSgt. Andrew Biscoe)

## Citizen soldiers stand tall at "Fort Westover" gates

by SSgt. Andrew Biscoe

It's not exactly "you're in the Army now," but the Massachusetts National Guard is introducing an Army flavor at the gates. The black beret with blue flash of some of the gate guards belongs to an Army infantry regiment.

The new look at the entrances to the base began in mid-February. It's all part of about 50 Massachusetts Army National Guard soldiers assisting the 439<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Squadron with protecting Westover. The guardsmen are on orders for at least a year, said 1st Lt. David H. Long, platoon leader of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon, Bravo Company, of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 182<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment headquartered in Melrose.

SSgt. Joseph Geyster, a guardsman from Athol, checked ID cards at the Industrial Gate in a chilly wind on Feb. 25. Geyster is billeted in a base dormitory and is able to make it home to see his family on his days off. He is pleased with the accommodations at Westover. "They're taking good care of us," he said.

The activation orders this time around carried a far different meaning than having to travel halfway around the world, Long said. He and Geyster deployed to Bosnia last year for seven and a half months.

(continued on next page)

## Medical, airlift control teams activated

by MSgt. Tom Allocco

Orders to activate and prepare to deploy came for Patriot Wing aeromedical and airlift control members this week.

The 439<sup>th</sup> Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron activated four four-member teams who will soon deploy to different locations, including Southwest Asia. The 16 members went through the mobilization line on Tuesday.

Eleven members of the 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Control Flight will go through the mobilization line on Monday. The airlift control flight is organized to provide command and control for airlift operations at a deployed location.

The activated airlift control team includes a pilot, a navigator, a command and control officer, operations specialists, loadmasters and an information management specialist. The activated squadron members have not yet been notified of their specific follow-on tasking, said SMSgt. Bob Seaton, ALCF super-

intendent.

The four teams of medical specialists are designated as aeromedical evacuation liaison teams. Each team is made up of a medical services officer, flight nurse and two radio operators. They will work with all branches of the service to request patient aeromedical evacuation that could range from forward locations to hospitals in the United States.

The 439<sup>th</sup> AES has a proud record supporting Enduring Freedom. Squadron members have served 100-day tours overseas at Bagram AB, Afghanistan and in Pakistan.

"Every time I've called, they've stepped forward. The support and enthusiasm of the members upon being called to duty has been amazing," said Lt. Col. David Zamorski, 439<sup>th</sup> AES operations officer.

Members of the 439<sup>th</sup> ALCF were previously activated during the Gulf War when they served for three months at King Khalid Military City in northern Saudi Arabia near the Iraq and Kuwaiti borders.

Guardsmen...

(Continued from page 1)

"It's nice to be close to home," Long said. "This area is in some of the guys' backyards. It works out well." Long, who lives in Brockton, has assigned the guardsmen to not only work the base gates. They are also working with 439<sup>th</sup> reservists with patrols all over the 2,500 acres of Westover.

Base security officials welcomed the help from the Army Guard.

"Everything's become a joint operation," said Maj. Tim Donnelly, acting commander of the 439<sup>th</sup> SFS. "This is an opportunity for a joint service operation. It's a training opportunity."

About 140 people in the 439<sup>th</sup> SFS have been activated since shortly after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, Donnelly said. Some will be allowed to leave the base as the Army Guard troops settle in, while other reservists who volunteer will stay on.



## Pat Stats

Customers served since Feb. 2, 2003

-- 1,819 passengers

-- 203 aircraft

-- 6 million pounds of cargo

Information provided by

MSgt. Jim Garrity and

TSgt. Kevin Nee, 42nd APS

## USO fund-raiser

The Pioneer Valley USO will present A Salute to America fund-raiser starring the USO Show Troupe and Pat Tobin with A Tribute to Frank Sinatra at the Knights of Columbus, 1599 Memorial Drive at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 7. Tickets are \$15 for the general public and \$12 for military members. They will be available at the door or by calling the Pioneer Valley USO at 222-5276.

## Westover Memories

by SSgt. Andrew Biscoe

**The '40s** -- September 1941: Work is completed on Building 1520, a combined fire and police station, constructed on Hangar Avenue near the Base Hangar.

**The '50s** -- April 1, 1955: The 4050<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing becomes the host unit of Westover as the Strategic Air Command (SAC) takes over the base from the Military Air Transport Service (MATS).

**The '60s** -- Jan. 9, 1961: The 347<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron -- one of three B-52 flying units of the 99<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing -- is reassigned to McCoy AFB, Fla., leaving the 346<sup>th</sup> and 348<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadrons at Westover.

**The '70s** -- May 19, 1974: Westover becomes the nation's first Air Force Reserve base.

**The '80s** -- August 1981: Westover hosts "Condor Redoubt," the most massive Air Force Reserve exercise ever held. More than 3,000 reservists and 200 aircraft participate in the two-week training mission.

**The '90s** -- Aug. 22, 1990: Twenty days after Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein ordered his troops to invade neighboring Kuwait, the Air Force activates Westover's 337<sup>th</sup> Military Airlift Squadron.

Sources for this article include the history archives of the 439<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing, past editions of the "Patriot," Westover's base newspaper; a Strategic Air Command website; "An Historical Walking Tour of Westover Air Reserve Base," the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission; and "Active Air Force Bases Within the United States of America," by the USAF Historical Research Center.

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## Express-ions

